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THESIS

FILMWISE CONDENSATION OF STEAM ON
LOW INTEGRAL-FINNED TUBES

by

Ioannis V. Georgiadis

September 1984

Thesis Advisor: P. J. Marto

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The best performing finned tube had a fin spacing of 1.5 mm, a fin thickness of 1.0 mm and a fin height of 2.0 mm. It showed an enhancement over the smooth tube of between 4 to 5 under vacuum conditions and around 6 at atmospheric conditions. Thus, the use of finned tubes may result in a significant reduction in the size and weight of present-day steam condensers.

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Filmwise Condensation of Steam on Low Integral-Finned Tubes

by

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requirements for the degrees of

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

A_{eff}	Effective Area of Finned Tube (See Eqn. 1.10)
A_f	Outside Area of Finned Tube
A_r	Outside Area of Smooth Tube
B	Constant Used with Sieder-Tate-type Equation
C	Constant Used with Sieder-Tate-type Equation
C_f	Correction Factor for Cooling Water Viscosity Changes
C_{pc}	Constant Pressure Specific Heat of Cooling Water
D_e	Equivalent Diameter Used with Beatty and Katz Equation
D_f	Diameter to Outside of Fins
D_i	Inside Diameter of Condenser Tube
D_o	Outside Diameter of Smooth Tube, Equal to Root Diameter of Finned Tube
e	Fin Height
F	$gD_o\mu_f h_{fg}/V_v^2 k_f \Delta T$
g	Local Gravitational Acceleration
h_{BK}	Average Heat-transfer Coefficient Given by Beatty and Katz Model
h_c	Heat-transfer Coefficient Based on Smooth Tube Diameter
h_{eff}	Heat-transfer Coefficient on the Flooded Part of the Tube
h_{fg}	Specific Enthalpy of Vaporization
h_i,hi	Water-side Heat-transfer Coefficient
h_L	Effective Heat-transfer Coefficient on the Flooded Part of the Tube

h_o,ho	Steam-side Heat-transfer Coefficient
h_{ow}	Average Heat-transfer Coefficient Given by Owen et al. Model
h_{RW}	Average Heat-transfer Coefficient Given by Rudy and Webb Model
h_u	Heat-transfer Coefficient on the Upper Tube Portion
k_c	Thermal Conductivity of Cooling Water
k_{eff}	Effective Thermal Conductivity
k_f	Thermal Conductivity of Condensate
k_{fin}	Thermal Conductivity of Fin Material
$\dot{m}_{act}$	Actual Cooling Water Mass Flow Rate
$\dot{m}_{calc}$	Calculated Cooling Water Mass Flow Rate
L	Condensing Tube Length
LMTD	Logarithmic-mean-temperature Difference
N	Fin Density
Nu	Water-side Nusselt Number, $h_i D_i / k_c$
Nu_g	Steam-side Nusselt Number, $h_o D_o / k_f$
ΔP_{AB},ΔP_{CB}	Pressure Difference Between Points C and B or Points A and B (Fig. 1.1)
P_A,P_B,P_C	Pressure in Condensate (Fig. 1.1)
Pr	Prandtl Number of Cooling Water, $C_{pc} \mu_c / k_c$
P_v	Pressure of Steam
q	Heat Flux Based on Outside Area of Smooth Tube
Re	Coolant-side Reynolds Number, $\rho_c V_c D_i / \mu_c$
$\tilde{Re}$	Steam-side Reynolds Number, $\rho_f V_v D_o / \mu_f$
s	Fin Spacing
t	Fin Thickness

Tin	Cooling Water Inlet Temperature
T_s or Ts	Temperature of Steam
Tout	Cooling Water Outlet Temperature
T_{wo}	Average Outer all Temperature, Temperature at Root of Fins
ΔT	Local Temperature Drop Across Condensate Film
$\overline{\Delta T}$	Average Temperature Drop Across Condensate Film $(T_s - \overline{T}_{wo})$
ΔT_c	Cooling Water Temperature Drop
r_A, r_B, r_C	Radius of Curvature of the Miniscus Profile in the Interfin Space at the Top Part of the Tube (Fig. 1.1)
U_o	Overall Heat-transfer Coefficient
V_c,Vw	Cooling Water Velocity
V_v	Steam Velocity
X	Average Fin Height (Defined by Equation (1.11))
x	Coordinate Axis (Fig. 1.1)
y	Coordinate Axis (Fig. 1.1)

Greek symbols

θ	Angle Measured from Top of Tube
μ_c	Viscosity of Cooling Water at Bulk Temperature
μ_f	Viscosity of Condensate at Film Temperature
μ_w	Viscosity of Cooling Water at Inner Wall Temperature
ρ_c	Density of Cooling Water
ρ_f	Density of Condensate
ρ_v	Density of Steam
σ	Surface Tension of Condensate

ϕ	Fin Efficiency
ψ	Condensate Retention Angle Measured from the Bottom of the Tube to the Position at Which the Condensate Just Fills the Interfin Space

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4. Artemis, my wife.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Modern marine propulsion plants must be designed to provide maximum power with small size, low weight and reasonable cost. A heavy power plant may have an impact on ship dimensions and displacement since the power required to achieve a given speed increases with the displacement. A sizeable propulsion plant will occupy space that is valuable, while the machinery room will have poor accessibility.

A significant decrease in size and weight of a steam power plant can be achieved by reducing the size of the condenser. Present condensers are large because of the use of smooth tubes and generous design margins. The heat-transfer performance of any condenser tube is limited by the thermal resistances on the water-side, in the wall and on the steam-side of the tube. Reduction of any of these resistances will contribute to a lighter and smaller condenser.

In recent years, various efforts have been made in order to increase the outside (i.e., steam-side) heat-transfer coefficient, and these methods have been thoroughly reviewed by Marto [Ref. 1]. Outside enhancement techniques include the use of low integral fins, roped tubes, fluted tubes, drainage strips attached on the tubes and applied coatings to promote dropwise condensation.

A. FILMWISE CONDENSATION ON FINNED TUBES

Filmwise condensation heat transfer on a smooth tube is limited by the thickness of the condensate layer. This layer forms a relatively high conduction resistance between the vapor and the tube surface. To enhance filmwise condensation heat transfer, it is then important to thin this condensate film. One common way to decrease this condensate film is to use radial fins attached to the external surface of the tube in order to promote surface-tension effects.

The theoretical treatment of this problem is very difficult owing to the large number of controlling parameters such as the three-dimensional condensate flow pattern, vapor shear, surface-tension forces, wall conduction effects and condensate retention. Studies following Gregorig [Ref. 2] have demonstrated the important role of surface tension in modifying the condensate film over the fin surface. The presence of fins causes three main effects:

1. the condensing area increases,
2. the surface-tension forces thin the condensate film over the tip of the fins causing improved heat transfer, and
3. the fins may cause condensate retention especially on the lower part of the tube.

The first two effects are beneficial, while the third undermines the heat-transfer performance. The second effect is most important in the upper portion of the tube, where there is little condensate retention. For steam condensation data on finned tubes, Yau et al. [Ref. 3] measured enhancement ratios (i.e., the ratio of vapor-side coefficient of a finned tube to the value of smooth tube) in excess of the increase in condensing area. This additional enhancement is most probably due to the thinning effect of the surface-tension forces acting on the condensate film. This phenomenon can be explained by referring to Figure 1.1.

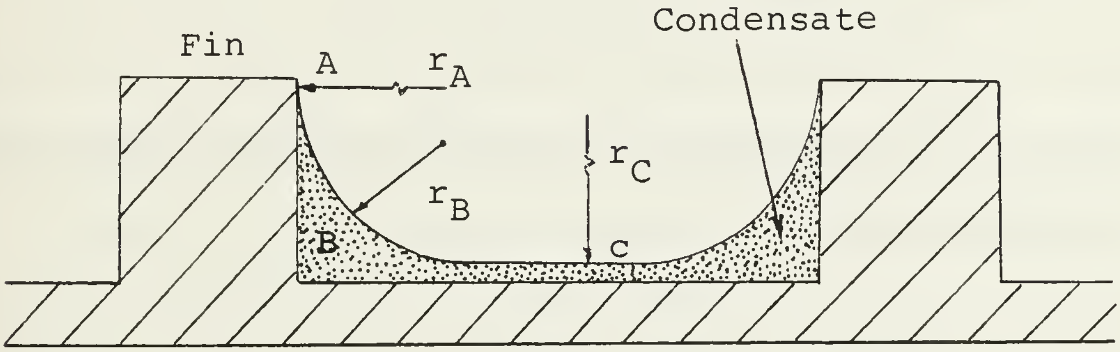

Figure 1.1. Condensate Profile at Top Part of Tube

Since the condensate film has a concave shape at point A, the pressure within the condensate at this point is smaller than the local vapor pressure, and is given by:

$$P_A = P_v - \frac{\sigma}{r_A} \tag{1.1}$$

A similar expression may be written at point C.

$$P_C = P_v - \frac{\sigma}{r_C} \tag{1.2}$$

Note that the local radii of curvature at points A and C are very large; therefore, the liquid pressure at these points nearly equals the vapor pressure. On the other hand, at point B the condensate profile has a more concave shape, thus resulting in a lower pressure than at either points A or C:

$$P_B = P_V - \frac{\sigma}{r_B} \qquad (1.3)$$

As a result, there exists a pressure difference from point A to point B as given by:

$$\Delta P_{AB} = \sigma\left(\frac{1}{r_B} - \frac{1}{r_A}\right) \qquad (1.4)$$

and in a similar way from point C to point B as given by:

$$\Delta P_{CB} = \sigma\left(\frac{1}{r_B} - \frac{1}{r_C}\right) \qquad (1.5)$$

In general, these pressure differences are positive, causing the condensate to be pulled toward point B (which acts as a condensate run-off channel), thus thinning the condensate film on the fins as well as in the interfin area. This thinning effect, therefore, increases the heat-transfer performance in excess of the surface area gain.

On the other hand, as mentioned above, the third effect of the fins which is to retain the condensate, especially on the lower part of the tube, creates a relatively thick condensate film, causing lower heat transfer. When the fin spacing is reduced, a high surface-tension condensate will bridge the fins; therefore, the heat-transfer performance may decrease despite that the condensing area has increased. Thus, owing to the competing nature of these effects, the selection of a best fin geometry needs considerable attention.

The effect of fin spacing and fluid properties (such as surface tension) on condensate retention has been well studied by various investigators [Refs. 4,5,6]. A detailed discussion of these studies is presented in the next section.

One more important effect that is common for both smooth and finned tubes is the oscillation of the condensate layer resulting from the intermittent departure of condensate droplets from the lower part of the tube surface. When a droplet departs, the nearby film stretches (becomes thinner) and higher heat transfer takes place locally. After the droplet has departed, the film grows again and becomes thicker. The frequency and amplitude of this oscillation are functions of the heat flux, fin geometry and the properties of the fluid. To the best of this author's knowledge, this transient phenomenon has not yet been investigated.

B. SURVEY OF ANALYTICAL MODELS AND EXPERIMENTAL WORK

In 1948, Beatty and Katz [Ref. 7] developed a simple analytical model to predict the condensing heat-transfer coefficient on a horizontal finned tube. Their model was supported by various other researchers, as stated in [Ref. 8]. The final form of the Beatty and Katz prediction has the following equations:

$$h_{Bk} = 0.689 \left\{ \frac{k_f^3 \rho_f (\rho_f - \rho_v) g h_{fg}}{\mu_f \overline{\Delta T}} \right\}^{1/4} [\frac{1}{D_e}]^{1/4} \tag{1.6}$$

where

$$[\frac{1}{D_e}]^{1/4} = \frac{A_r}{A_{eff}} \frac{1}{D_o^{1/4}} + 1.3 \frac{\phi A_f}{A_{eff}} \frac{1}{X^{1/4}} , \tag{1.7}$$

$$A_r = \pi D_o L \tag{1.8}$$

$$A_f = \frac{\pi}{2}(D_f^2 - D_o^2) NL , \tag{1.9}$$

$$A_{eff} = A_r + \phi A_f , \text{ and} \tag{1.10}$$

$$X = \frac{\pi (D_f^2 - D_o^2)}{4 D_f} . \tag{1.11}$$

The major fault with their model was the neglect of any surface-tension effects. They therefore assumed that the

Nusselt equation can be applied to all the external surfaces of the tube (i.e., tip, sides of fins and interfin space). According to [Ref. 8 and 9], this model overpredicts the condensing coefficient especially for those fluids that have high surface tensions (for example, water).

Rudy et al. [Ref. 5] attempted to include the surface-tension effect by modifying the original Beatty and Katz equation. To obtain this modification, they first investigated the retention angle problem. They performed static (i.e., with no condensation) and dynamic (i.e., with condensation) measurements of the retention angle on tubes with fin densities from 0.75 to 1.38 fins/mm. They found that the retention angle (see Figure 1.2) can be very well predicted (within ±10 percent) by the following equation:

$$\psi = \cos^{-1}\left[1 - \frac{4\sigma}{\rho_f g s D_f}\right] \qquad (1.12)$$

The above equation was tested against many fluids such as refrigerant-11, pentane and water. It is worth mentioning that Honda et al. [Ref. 6] and Owen et al. [Ref. 8], obtained essentially the same equation by using different models. Next, Rudy et al. modelled the condensation process assuming no heat transfer in the flooded portion of the tube. They developed the following prediction:

$$h_{RW} = \left(1 - \frac{\psi}{\pi}\right) h_{BK} \qquad (1.13)$$

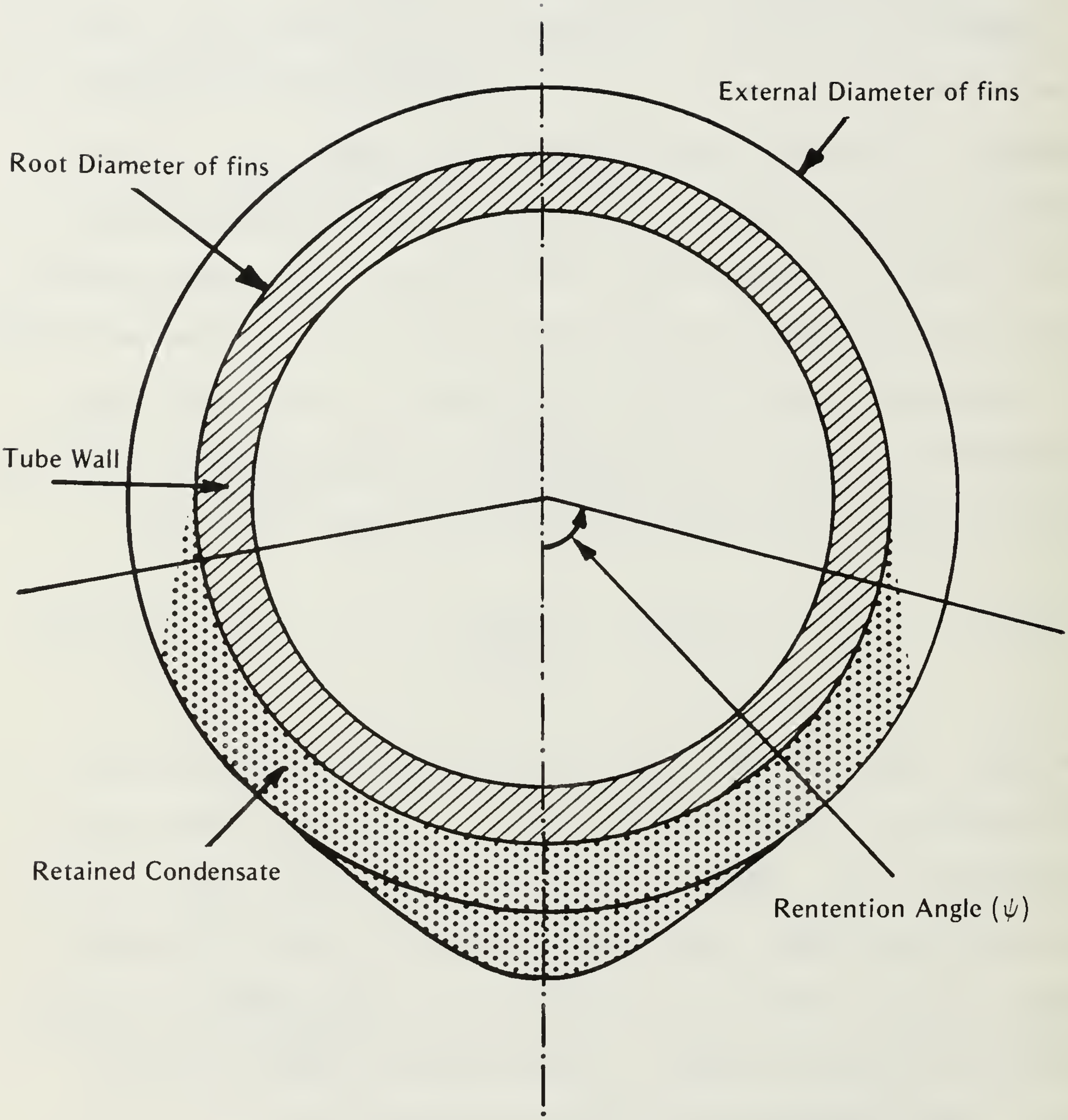
External Diameter of fins
Root Diameter of fins
Tube Wall
Retained Condensate
Rentention Angle (ψ)

Figure 1.2. Typical Schematic of Retention Angle

where h_{BK} is given by equation (1.6). Unfortunately, this model tends to underpredict most of the available experimental data by as much as about 60 percent [Ref. 9].

Owen et al. [Ref. 8] modified the Rudy et al. model by including heat transfer from the flooded part of the tube. For the fluids that they tested, their model predicted the condensing coefficient within ±30 percent. The prediction that they developed is based on the following equations:

$$h_{ow} = (1 - \frac{\psi}{\pi}) h_u + \frac{\psi}{\pi} h_L \tag{1.14}$$

$$h_u = 0.725 \left\{ \frac{k_f^3 \rho_f (\rho_f - \rho_v) g h_{fg}}{\mu_f \overline{\Delta T}} \right\}^{1/4} [\frac{1}{D_e}]^{1/4} \quad ; \tag{1.15}$$

$$h_L = (\frac{1}{h_{eff}} - \frac{1}{h_c})^{-1} \tag{1.16}$$

where

$$h_c = 0.725 \left\{ \frac{k_f^3 \rho_f (\rho_f - \rho_v) g h_{fg}}{\mu_f \overline{\Delta T}} \right\}^{1/4} [\frac{1}{D_f}]^{1/4} \quad , \text{ and} \tag{1.17}$$

$$h_{eff} = \frac{k_{eff}}{e} \quad , \tag{1.18}$$

where

$$k_{eff} = (1 - sN) k_{fin} + sN k_f \tag{1.19}$$

The above analysis uses Beatty and Katz prediction (equation (1.6)) for the unflooded part of the tube. As mentioned earlier, the surface-tension effect is not included in equation (1.6). However, as discussed in the previous section (Section A), the surface-tension forces play an important role in filmwise condensation by thinning the condensate film. Therefore, the Owen model needs further improvements to account for the surface-tension effect at the unflooded part of the tube.

Recently, Honda et al. [Ref. 9], developed a model to predict the condensing coefficient by accounting for surface-tension effects and for the non-isothermal behavior of the fins. Their model can predict most of the available experimental data including 11 fluids and 22 tubes within ±20 percent. Honda et al. provide a comparison of these four models with experimental data. It is worth mentioning that the worst disagreement (within ±30 percent) between the data and their model occurs for the steam data of Rose [Ref. 3]. This is probably owing to the high surface tension of water, as the surface-tension effects are still inadequately accounted for even in this model. Further, it is shown that all the models except that of Honda overpredict these steam data. In comparison with the other models, the Honda model shows considerable promise. However, it must be noted that this model is rather laborious as it requires considerable computer time for iterative finite difference techniques.

The Honda model may require further improvements to predict steam data more accurately. Also, most importantly, a more practical model must be developed so that the designers may use it with confidence. Such a model may consist of a combination of a few correlations. Thus, it is extremely important to generate a sufficient amount of experimental data covering all important geometric variables (such as fin spacing, fin thickness, fin height, fin shape, tube diameter, etc.) for condensation of steam on finned tubes.

In 1961, Staub [Ref. 10] conducted steam condensation experiments with horizontal fluted tubes under vacuum and atmospheric conditions. He used a bell-shaped (rather than rectangular) fin profile on a root diameter of 14.9 mm. These fins had a pitch of 1.0 mm, a thickness of 0.4 mm at the root of the fin and a height of 0.5 mm. He reported a vapor-side heat-transfer-coefficient enhancement (i.e., the ratio of vapor-side coefficient of finned tube to the value of smooth tube) of around 3 for both vacuum and atmospheric pressure conditions.

At Queen Mary College of London, Yau et al. [Ref. 3] obtained steam condensation data at atmospheric pressure on various rectangularly-shaped finned tubes having a root diameter of 12.7 mm. They found an optimum spacing of 1.5 mm for a fin thickness of 0.5 mm and a fin height of 1 mm. Their optimum tube resulted in a vapor-side heat-transfer coefficient enhancement of 3 to 4.

On-going research is underway at the Naval Postgraduate School to study the feasibility of using low integral-finned tubes with steam. A test apparatus has been constructed by Krohn [Ref. 11] to systematically study steam condensation on a single horizontal tube. The test apparatus was instrumented and tested by Graber [Ref. 12], and further system improvements for leak tightness were made by Poole [Ref. 13]. Poole conducted experiments both under vacuum and at pressures near-atmospheric. He used machined, rectangular fins with a fin thickness and a fin height of 1 mm on a root diameter of 19 mm. He tested a total of six finned tubes with fin spacings of 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 , 4.0 and 9.0 mm as well as a smooth tube. His results showed that the best enhancement of 3 to 4 occurred for the tube with a fin spacing of 1.5 mm. However, Poole had problems with partial dropwise condensation since the total filmwise mode lasted only for about 20 minutes during his experimental runs. Thus, it became necessary to repeat his test runs in order to verify his preliminary results.

C. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this research effort were, therefore, to:

1) establish a preparation procedure that will ensure filmwise condensation on copper finned tubes.

2) take data on an instrumented smooth tube to determine the water-side heat-transfer coefficient with internal enhancement.

3) take data on a smooth tube to check the data-reduction program and to establish a basis for comparison with the finned tubes.

4) take data on tubes with rectangularly shaped fins of various fin spacings, fin thicknesses and fin heights to obtain a possible optimum fin geometry.

II. DESCRIPTION OF APPARATUS

A. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The apparatus used for this research was essentially the same used in [Ref. 13], with several small modifications. A schematic of the system is shown in Figure 2.1. Steam was generated in a 304.8 mm (12 in) diameter Pyrex glass boiler using ten 4000 Watt, 480 Volt Watlow immersion heaters. Passing through a 304.8 mm (12 in) to 152.4 mm (6 in) reducing section, the steam travelled upward through a Pyrex glass section 2.44 m (8 ft) in length, around a 180-degree bend and back down a straightening section 1.52 m (5 ft) in length before entering the stainless-steel test section. The condenser tube to be tested was mounted horizontally in the test section behind a viewport to permit visual observation of the condensing process. Figure 2.2 shows the details of the test tube mounted in the test section.

Steam that did not condense on the test tube passed into a stainless steel auxiliary condenser, and all condensate was returned via gravity to the boiler. The auxiliary condenser was constructed of two 9.5 mm (3/8 in) diameter, water-cooled copper lines helically coiled to a height of 457 mm (18 in).

Cooling water for the test tube was provided, on a once-through basis, by two centrifugal pumps connected in series.

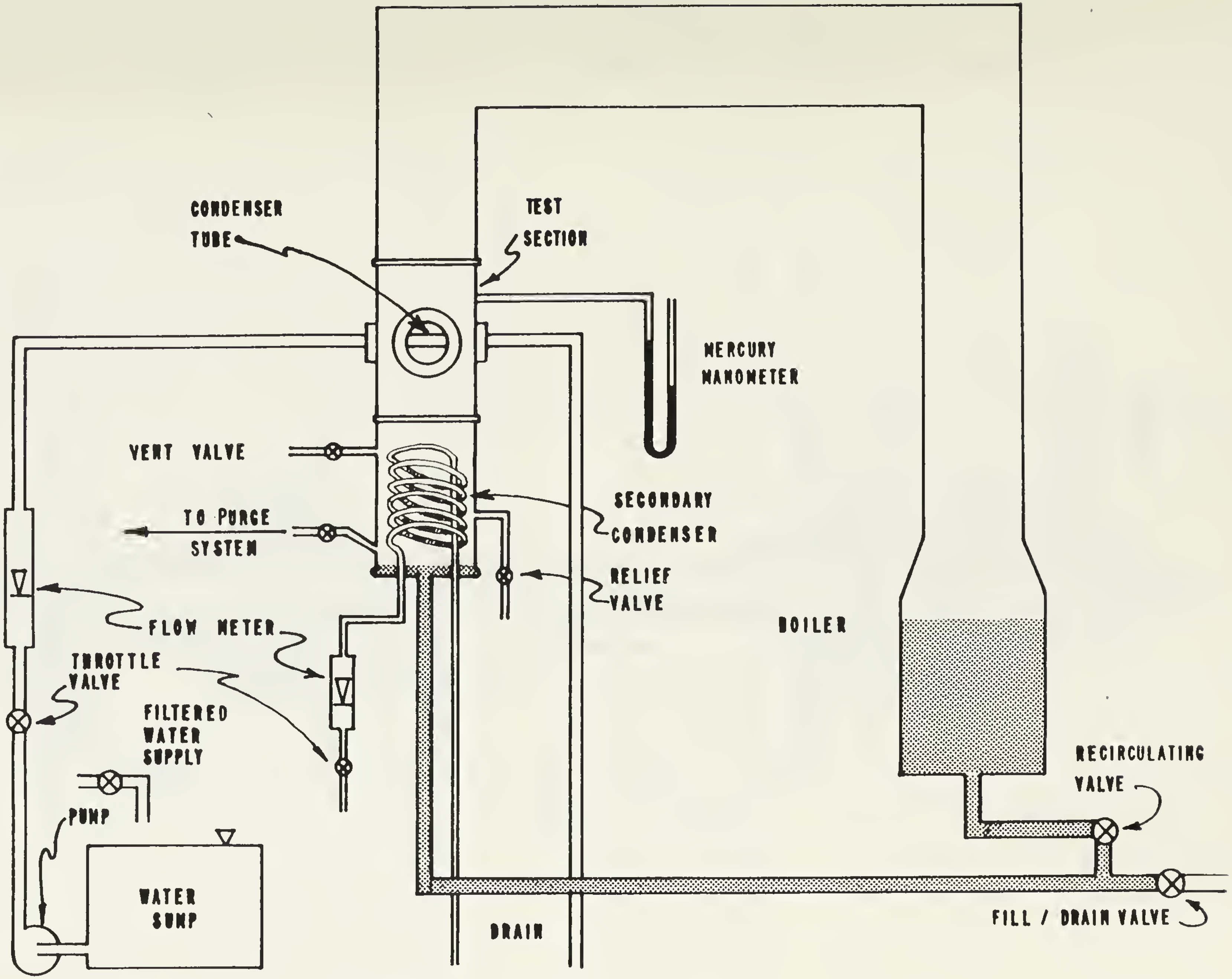
CONDENSER TUBE
TEST SECTION
MERCURY MANOMETER
VENT VALVE
TO PURGE SYSTEM
SECONDARY CONDENSER
RELIEF VALVE
BOILER
FLOW METER
THROTTLE VALVE
FILTERED WATER SUPPLY
PUMP
WATER SUMP
DRAIN
RECIRCULATING VALVE
FILL / DRAIN VALVE

Figure 2.1. Schematic of Test Apparatus

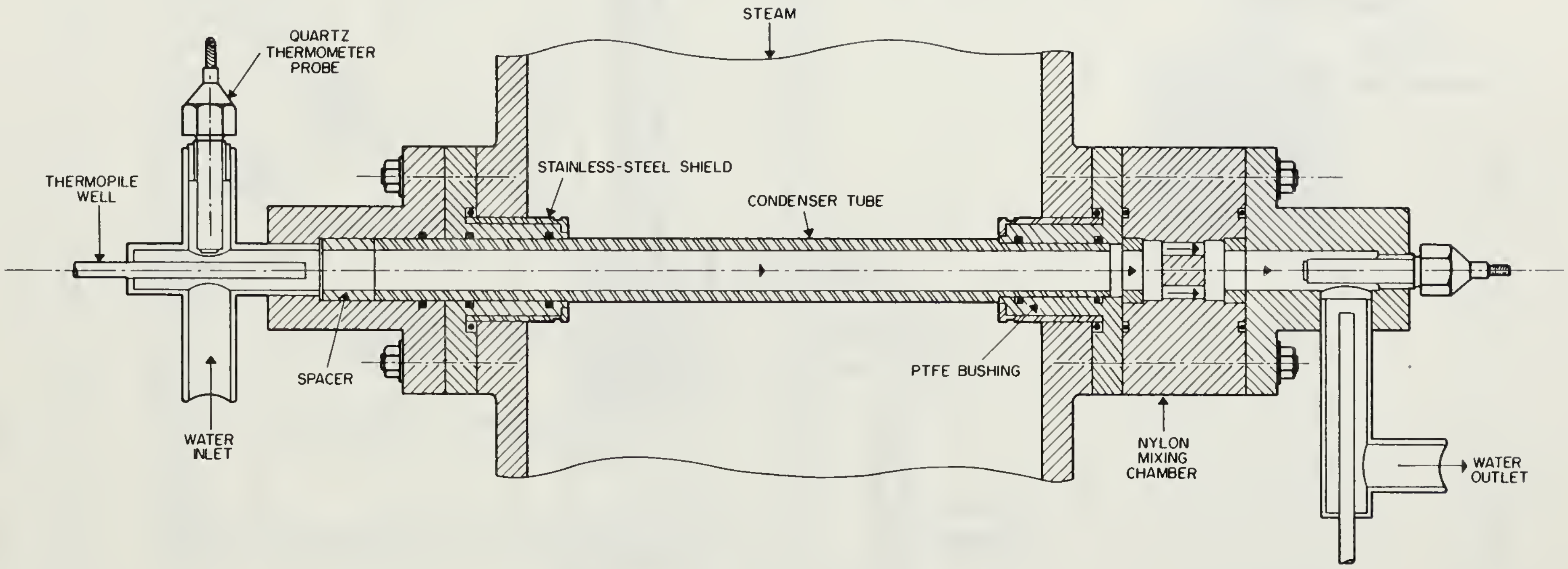
STEAM
QUARTZ THERMOMETER PROBE
THERMOPILE WELL
STAINLESS-STEEL SHIELD
CONDENSER TUBE
SPACER
PTFE BUSHING
WATER INLET
NYLON MIXING CHAMBER
WATER OUTLET

Figure 2.2. Schematic Details of Test Section (Insert not Shown)

Water to these pumps was provided through a large sump (capacity about 0.4 m^3), which was filled with a continuous supply of filtered tap water. The water could be throttled from zero to 0.55 l/s (8.8 gpm), giving a maximum water velocity of 4.4 m/s (14.4 ft/sec) through the tube.

A continuous supply of tap water was used for cooling the auxiliary condenser. Throttling the flow of tap water through the auxiliary condenser was the means used to vary the internal pressure of the test apparatus.

A vacuum pump was used to create vacuum and for removal of noncondensing gases from the test section. The vacuum pump was in operation throughout the data collection time interval.

B. SYSTEM INSTRUMENTATION

The input power to the heaters was changed through a panel-mounted potentiometer. A converter with an input voltage of 440 VAC generated a signal, which was fed to the data acquisition system in order to calculate the power input to the heaters. A complete explanation of the converter function is given by Poole [Ref. 13].

The internal pressure of the system was measured manually by a U-tube, mercury-in-glass manometer graduated in millimeters. Unavoidably, steam would condense in the manometer. Therefore, the varying height of the water column in the manometer needed to be accounted for when measuring the system pressure.

All temperatures were measured using 0.25 mm diameter, copper-constantan thermocouples. Two thermocouples were used for the steam, one for the condensate return and one for the ambient. The calibration procedure for these thermocouples is described in [Ref. 13]. The temperature rise of the cooling water through the test section was measured by two Hewlett-Packard (HP) 2804A quartz thermometers as well as by a 10-junction, series-connected, copper-constantan thermopile. The temperatures were fed directly into the data-acquisition system as described below. During this entire investigation, these two independent means of cooling-water-temperature rise measurements agreed to within ±0.02 K. Note that the coolant temperature rise was as low as 0.7 K for the smooth tube (under vacuum conditions), while it was in excess of 1.2 K for the finned tubes. Thus, the coolant temperature rise was measured with an uncertainty better than ±3 percent for finned tubes.

C. DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM

An HP 3497A Data Acquisition System, as controlled by an HP 9826A computer, was used to monitor the system temperatures and the converter's signal representing the power input to the heaters. The data were immediately processed and also were stored on computer disks for later reduction and evaluation.

D. SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS

For some of the early data taken near atmospheric pressure, the measured steam-side heat-transfer coefficient, when operating with a closed system, disagreed by as much as ±30 percent between different data runs. This was later found to be due to the malfunctioning of the relief valve provided on the apparatus for safety reasons (see Figure 2.1). This valve had a designed relief gauge pressure of 52 mmHg. However, occasionally it was found to open with a system gauge pressure of only about 7 mmHg. Once opened, the valve remained open even if the system operating pressure was 10 mmHg below atmospheric, thus allowing air to enter the apparatus. To avoid this problem, subsequent runs were made without the relief valve and a new, more reliable, valve was ordered. In the meantime, extreme care had to be exercised to avoid system pressurization.

Originally, the apparatus was provided with a 10.6 kW (3 ton) air-conditioning system to cool the cooling water sump. However, as also mentioned by Poole [Ref. 13], this system was inadequate to keep the sump temperature from rising. For this reason, this air-conditioning system was removed. By removing this unit, the cooling water friction losses were reduced and the maximum water velocity was increased from 4.2 to 4.4 m/s. In the previous stage of the investigation, fresh tap water was continuously fed to a sump while an equal amount of water was being drained, maintaining

TABLE XXVIII

Raw Data of Smooth Tube

File Name of Raw Data : SV14
Pressure condition : VACUUM
Vapor Velocity : 2.0 m/s

Data #	Vw (m/s)	Tin C	Tout C	Ts C
1	4.22	17.64	18.50	48.98
2	4.22	17.63	18.49	48.87
3	3.88	17.65	18.55	48.56
4	3.88	17.65	18.54	48.54
5	3.34	17.67	18.67	48.68
6	3.34	17.67	18.67	48.80
7	2.80	17.72	18.86	48.98
8	2.80	17.72	18.85	49.03
9	2.25	17.78	19.11	49.24
10	2.25	17.78	19.11	49.29
11	1.71	17.84	19.45	49.17
12	1.71	17.84	19.45	49.15
13	1.17	18.04	20.13	49.15
14	1.17	18.03	20.13	49.26
15	2.53	17.70	18.92	48.75
16	2.53	17.70	18.92	48.70
17	3.61	17.61	18.56	48.80
18	3.61	17.61	18.56	48.82

File Name of Raw Data : SIA111
Pressure condition : ATMOSPHERIC
Vapor Velocity : 1.0 m/s

Data #	Vw (m/s)	Tin C	Tout C	Ts C
1	4.40	22.22	24.03	99.88
2	4.40	22.23	24.03	99.79
3	3.86	22.33	24.33	100.03
4	3.86	22.32	24.32	100.23
5	3.32	22.43	24.67	99.92
6	3.32	22.44	24.68	99.99
7	2.51	22.63	25.43	99.86
8	2.51	22.63	25.43	99.71
9	1.97	22.75	26.11	99.78
10	1.97	22.75	26.12	99.82
11	1.48	22.95	27.13	99.76
12	1.48	22.95	27.13	99.73
13	1.16	23.18	28.18	99.62
14	1.16	23.19	28.20	99.70
15.	3.05	22.56	24.98	100.09
16	3.05	22.56	24.97	99.96
17	4.39	22.40	24.21	100.08
18	4.39	22.40	24.21	100.00

APPENDIX E

ERROR ANALYSIS

The numerical data taken during an experiment are used together with theoretical formulations in order to obtain results about the objective of the experiment. Any measurement has an uncertainty which is a function of the device accuracy as well as the experience of the operator. Therefore, the final result may be severely distorted due to the error propagation during the computational steps. In cases where the final result has a large uncertainty, it may be unwise to draw any conclusions.

The probable uncertainty in a computation can be determined from the following equation, as taken from [Ref. 19]:

$$w_R = \left[\left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial x_1} w_1\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial x_2} w_2\right)^2 + \ldots + \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial x_n} w_n\right)^2\right]^{1/2} \tag{E.1}$$

where:

R is the result

$x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ are the measured (independent) variables

$w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_n$ are the uncertainties in the measured (independent) variables.

The above equation, together with the uncertainty of each measurement, was used to determine the possible error of the outside heat-transfer coefficient. As discussed in Chapter V, the outside resistance was found by subtracting the water-side and tube-wall resistances from the overall resistance. This means that the error in the condensing coefficient is mainly a function of the overall and the water-side resistances. In such cases, if the water-side resistance has a significant error it will be unavoidably reflected in the condensing heat-transfer coefficient. Further, if the value of the water-side resistance is much larger than the condensing resistance, then the error that will appear in the condensing coefficient will be highly amplified. The steam-side resistance is generally smaller, especially on finned tubes, then the water-side resistance (recall that the condensation process is a phase change phenomenon where the heat-transfer process is very effective). Therefore, to 'protect' the final result of the condensing coefficient from an excessive error, the water-side and condensing resistances should be as nearly balanced as possible. The water-side resistance can be reduced either by increasing the coolant velocity or by internal enhancement. Both ways promote turbulence and reduce the boundary layer thickness on the inside wall surface (recall that the coiled insert was used exactly for this purpose). However, since the water-side temperature rise decreases with increase in water velocity, the water velocity must not be too excessive. Since the water-side temperature rise is the most crucial measurement, a minimum value must be assigned to minimize experimental errors. For this reason, the internal enhancement is preferable than the increase in water velocity to obtain a lower thermal resistance on the waterside.

Based on the above discussion, it should be expected that as the cooling water flow rate decreases (i.e., less turbulence), the error in the outside heat-transfer coefficient should increase. Figures E.1 and E.2 show the error bands for three cooling water flow rates for the tube that showed the best heat-transfer performance (1.0 mm fin thickness, 1.5 mm fin spacing and 2.0 mm fin height) for both pressure conditions. It is shown that indeed the error gets larger as the cooling water flow rate (i.e., the heat flux) decreases. Also notice that the error bands shown with the atmospheric run are smaller than the corresponding value for the vacuum runs. This improvement can be explained by the increased water-side temperature rise. Note that the relative error decreases as the water-side temperature rise increases.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is clear why the reference heat fluxes for computing the enhancement ratio of the cross plots in Chapter V were selected as high as possible (0.35 and 1.0 MW/m^2 for vacuum and atmospheric runs, respectively).

The uncertainty of the major variables that govern the condensation process (cooling water velocity, Reynolds

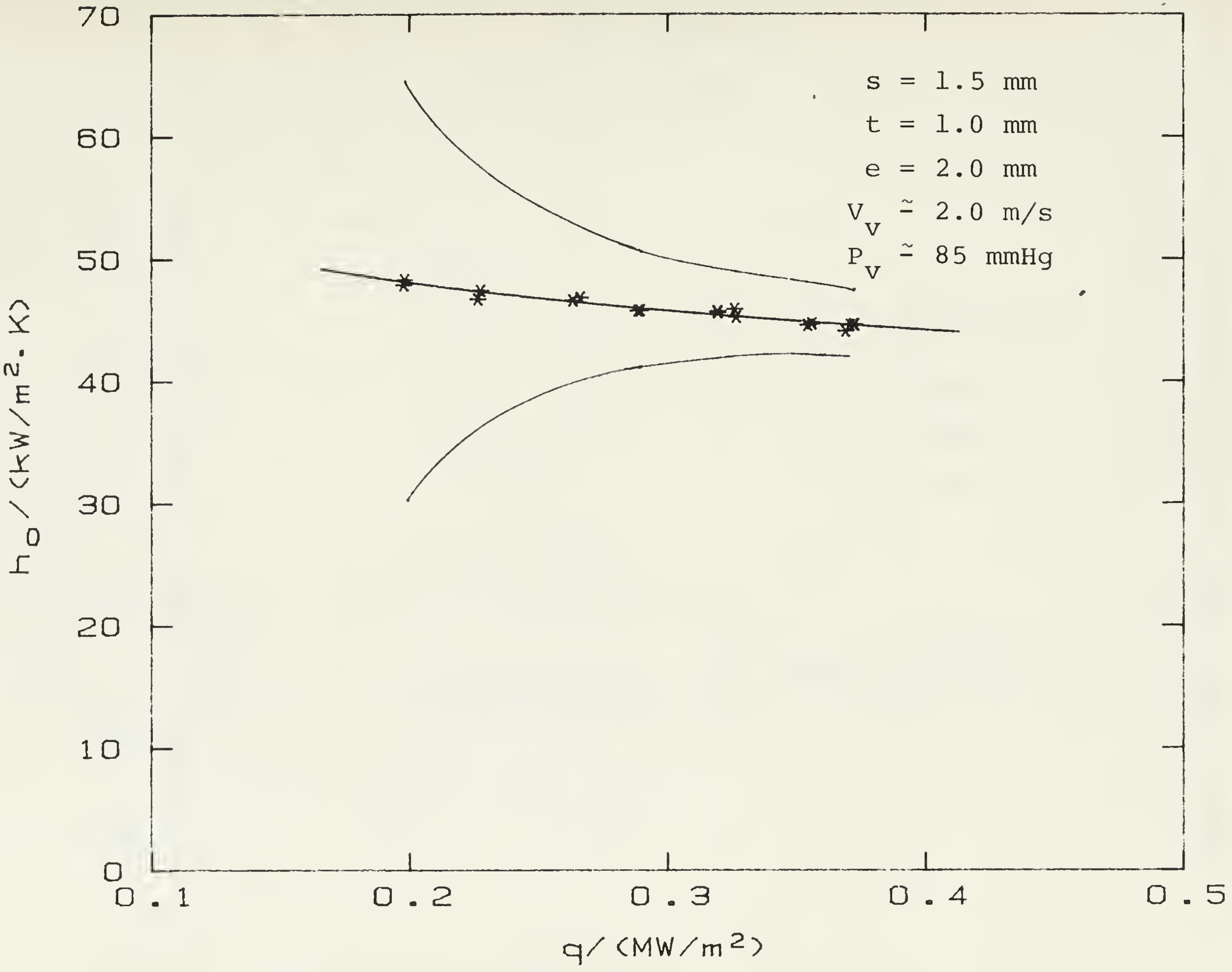

Figure E.1. Error Bands for a Tube Tested Under Vacuum Conditions

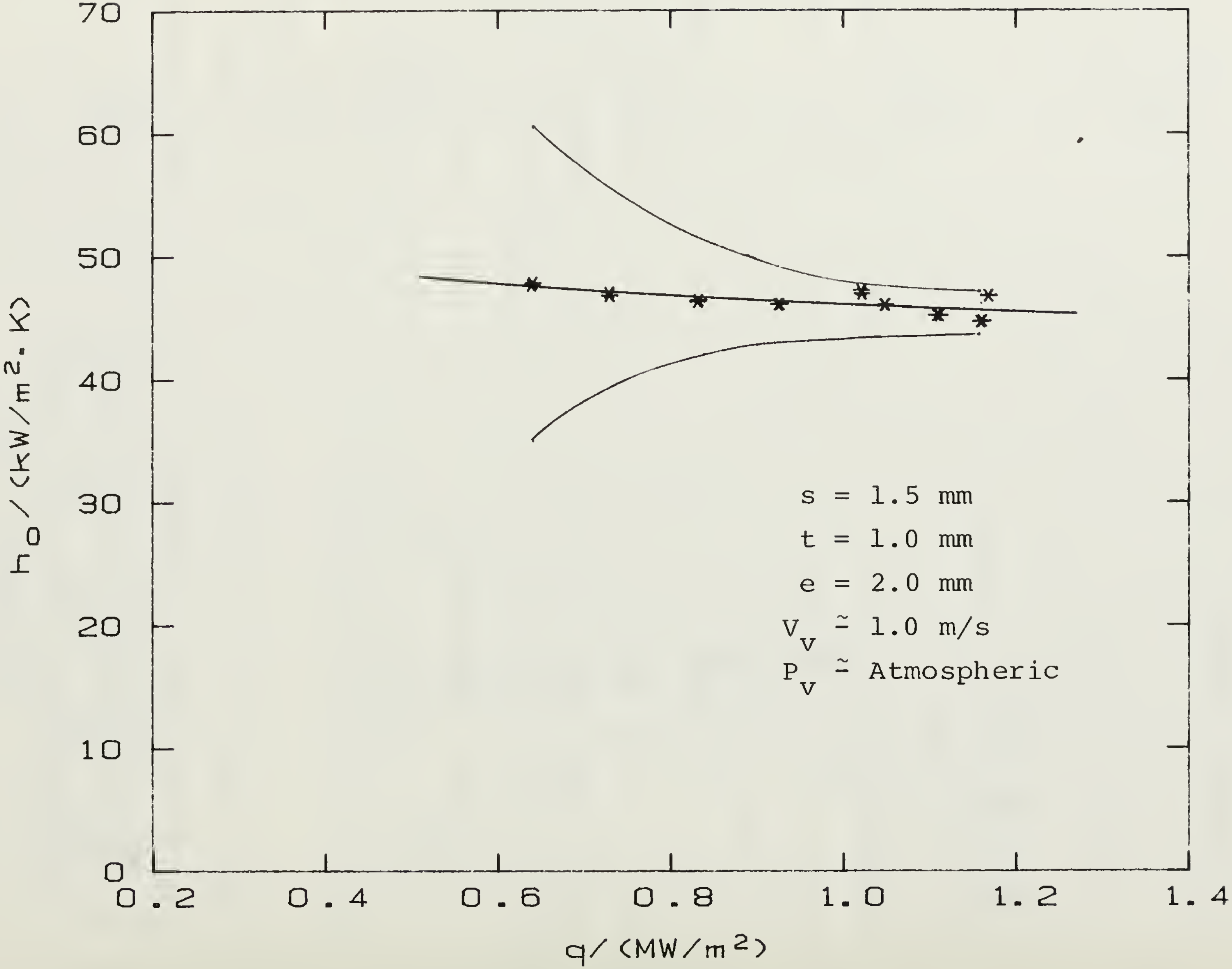

Figure E.2. Error Bands for a Tube Tested Under Atmospheric Conditions

number, heat flux, LMTD, water-side and outside heat-transfer coefficients) are given as percentages in the following computer outputs of the program "ERROR." At the end of this appendix, the listing of the program "ERROR" is provided for the Error Analysis.

```
DATA FOR THE ERROR ANALYSIS:

File Name:             F25E2V146
Pressure Condition:    VACUUM 11 kPa
Cooling Water Temperature In  =  22.72 (Deg C)
Cooling Water Temperature Out =  24.07 (Deg C)
Steam Temperature             =  48.35 (Deg C)
Water Flow Rate (%)           =  80.00
Water Velocity                =   4.39 (m/s)


ERROR ANALYSIS:

% Error in Mass Flow Rate     =  1.03
% Error in Reynolds Number    =  1.24
% Error in Heat Flux          =  0.79
% Error in LMTD               =  2.22
% Error in Uo                 =  2.36
% Error in Hi                 =  1.32
% Error in Ho                 =  8.36




DATA FOR THE ERROR ANALYSIS:

File Name:             F25E2V146
Pressure Condition:    VACUUM 11 kPa
Cooling Water Temperature In  =  23.02 (Deg C)
Cooling Water Temperature Out =  24.79 (Deg C)
Steam Temperature             =  48.20 (Deg C)
Water Flow Rate (%)           =  45.00
Water Velocity                =   2.51 (m/s)


ERROR ANALYSIS:

% Error in Mass Flow Rate     =  1.80
% Error in Reynolds Number    =  1.93
% Error in Heat Flux          =  0.78
% Error in LMTD               =  1.63
% Error in Uo                 =  1.31
% Error in Hi                 =  1.78
% Error in Ho                 = 10.53
```

```
DATA FOR THE ERROR ANALYSIS:

File Name:              F25E2V146
Pressure Condition:     VACUUM 11 kPa
Cooling Water Temperature In   =  23.53 (Deg C)
Cooling Water Temperature Out  =  26.11 (Deg C)
Steam Temperature              =  48.53 (Deg C)
Water Flow Rate (%)            =  20.00
Water Velocity                 =   1.16 (m/s)


ERROR ANALYSIS:

% Error in Mass Flow Rate      =  3.89
% Error in Reynolds Number     =  3.96
% Error in Heat Flux           =  1.30
% Error in LMTD                =  1.10
% Error in Uo                  =  1.70
% Error in Hi                  =  3.29
% Error in Ho                  = 36.25
```

```
DATA FOR THE ERROR ANALYSIS:

File Name:              F25E2A128
Pressure Condition:     ATMOSPHERIC 101 kPa
Cooling Water Temperature In   =  22.90 (Deg C)
Cooling Water Temperature Out  =  26.96 (Deg C)
Steam Temperature              =  99.87 (Deg C)
Water Flow Rate (%)            =  80.00
Water Velocity                 =   4.39 (m/s)


ERROR ANALYSIS:

% Error in Mass Flow Rate      =  1.03
% Error in Reynolds Number     =  1.25
% Error in Heat Flux           =  0.42
% Error in LMTD                =  0.71
% Error in Uo                  =  0.83
% Error in Hi                  =  1.33
% Error in Ho                  =  3.51
```

```
DATA FOR THE ERROR ANALYSIS:

File Name:              F25E2A128
Pressure Condition:   ATMOSPHERIC 101 kPa
Cooling Water Temperature In  =  23.27 (Deg C)
Cooling Water Temperature Out =  28.87 (Deg C)
Steam Temperature             =  99.59 (Deg C)
Water Flow Rate (%)           =  45.00
Water Velocity                =   2.51 (m/s)


ERROR ANALYSIS:

% Error in Mass Flow Rate     =  1.80
% Error in Reynolds Number    =  1.95
% Error in Heat Flux          =  0.61
% Error in LMTD               =  0.51
% Error in Uo                 =  0.80
% Error in Hi                 =  1.79
% Error in Ho                 =  6.34
```

```
DATA FOR THE ERROR ANALYSIS:

File Name:              F25E2A128
Pressure Condition:   ATMOSPHERIC 101 kPa
Cooling Water Temperature In  =  23.96 (Deg C)
Cooling Water Temperature Out =  32.30 (Deg C)
Steam Temperature             =  99.43 (Deg C)
Water Flow Rate (%)           =  20.00
Water Velocity                =   1.16 (m/s)


ERROR ANALYSIS:

% Error in Mass Flow Rate     =  3.90
% Error in Reynolds Number    =  3.97
% Error in Heat Flux          =  1.25
% Error in LMTD               =  0.34
% Error in Uo                 =  1.30
% Error in Hi                 =  3.30
% Error in Ho                 = 27.01
```

```
1000! FILE NAME : ERROR
1010! REVISED : JUNE 27, 1984
1020!
1030  PRINT USING "10X,""DATA FOR THE ERROR ANALYSIS:"""
1040  PRINT
1050  BEEP
1060  INPUT "ENTER FILE NAME",File$
1070  PRINT USING "10X,""File Name:            "",12A";File$
1080  BEEP
1090  INPUT "ENTER PRESSURE CONDITION (1=VACUUM,2=ATMOSPHERIC) ",Prc
1100  IF Prc=1 THEN
1110  BEEP
1120  PRINT USING "10X,""Pressure Condition:  VACUUM 11 kPa"""
1130  ELSE
1140  PRINT USING "10X,""Pressure Condition:  ATMOSPHERIC 101 kPa"""
1150  END IF
1160  BEEP
1170  INPUT "ENTER COOLING WATER TEMPERATURE IN",Tci
1180  PRINT USING "10X,""Cooling Water Temperature In  = "",3D.2D,"" (Deg C)""";
Tci
1190  BEEP
1200  INPUT "ENTER COOLING WATER TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE",Dtw
1210  Tco=Tci+Dtw
1220  PRINT USING "10X,""Cooling Water Temperature Out = "",3D.2D,"" (Deg C)""";
Tco
1230  BEEP
1240  INPUT "ENTER STEAM TEMPERATURE",Ts
1250  PRINT USING "10X,""Steam Temperature             = "",3D.2D,"" (Deg C)""";
Ts
1260  BEEP
1270  INPUT "ENTER COOLING WATER FLOW RATE %",Fm
1280  PRINT USING "10X,""Water Flow Rate (%)           = "",3D.2D";Fm
1290  T=(Tci+Tco)/2  ! FILM TEMPERATURE
1300! UNCERTAINTY IN THE COOLING WATER
1310  Dfm=.10 ! ERROR IN FLOW METER READING
1320  Drho=1  ! ERROR IN WATER DENSITY
1330  Dmf=5.00049E-3+6.9861937E-3*Dfm ! ERROR IN MASS FLOW RATE
1340  Rho=FNRho(T) ! WATER DENSITY
1350  Mf=1.04805E-2+6.80932E-3*Fm  ! MASS FLOW RATE OF COOLING WATER
1360! CORRECT MF FOR THE TEMPERATURE EFFECT
1370  Mf=Mf*(1.0365-1.96644E-3*Tci+5.252E-6*Tci^2)/.995434
1380  Di=.0127  ! TUBE INSIDE DIAMETER
1390  Ai=(PI*Di^2)/4 ! TUBE INSIDE CROSS SECTION AREA
1400  Ddi=.000025
1410  Dai=(PI*Ddi^2)/4 ! ERROR OF INSIDE TUBE CROSS AREA
1420! COMPUTE THE WATER VELOCITY
1430  Vw=Mf/(Rho*Ai) ! WATER VELOCITY
1440  PRINT USING "10X,""Water Velocity                =   "",Z.DD,"" (m/s)""";V
w
1450! CORRECT OUTLET WATER TEMP. FOR THE MIXING CHAMBER EFFECT
1460  Tco=Tco-.004*Vw^2 ! COOLING WATER OUTLET TEMP.
1470  T=(Tci+Tco)*.5 ! FILM TEMPERATURE
1480! COMPUTE THE ERROR IN WATER VELOCITY
1490  Dvw=Vw*SQR((Dmf/Mf)^2+(Drho/Rho)^2+(Dai/Ai)^2)
1500! UNCERTAINTY IN THE REYNOLDS NUMBER
1510  Mw=FNMw(T) ! WATER VISCOSITY
1520  Dmw=6.E-6 ! ERROR OF WATER VISCOSITY
1530  Re=(Rho*Vw*Di)/Mw
1540  Dre=Re*SQR((Drho/Rho)^2+(Dvw/Vw)^2+(Ddi/Di)^2+(Dmw/Mw)^2)
```

```
1550! UNCERTAINTY IN THE HEAT TRANSFERED
1560  Cpw=FNCpw(T)
1570  Q=Mf*(Tco-Tci)*Cpw
1580  Dtco=.02
1590  Dtci=.02
1600  Dcpw=8
1610  Dq=Q*SQR((Dmf/Mf)^2+((Dtco/(Tco-Tci)))^2+((Dtci/(Tco-Tci)))^2+(Dcpw/Cpw)^2
)
1620! UNCERTAINTY IN THE HEAT FLUX
1630  Dl=.0005 ! ERROR IN TUBE LENGHT
1640  Do=.01905 ! SMOOTH TUBE OUTER DIAMETER
1650  Ddo=.000025
1660  L=.13335 ! FINNED TUBE LENGTH
1670  Qp=Q/(PI*Do*L) ! HEAT FLUX
1680  Dqp=(Qp/PI)*SQR((Dq/Q)^2+(Ddo/Do)^2+(Dl/L)^2)
1690  Dts=.02  ! ERROR IN TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENT
1700  Lmtd=(Tco-Tci)/LOG((Ts-Tci)/(Ts-Tco))
1710  Uo=Qp/Lmtd ! OVERALL HEAT TRANSFER COEF.
1720  A1=Dts*(Tci-Tco)/((Ts-Tci)*(Ts-Tco)*LOG((Ts-Tci)/(Ts-Tco)))
1730  A2=Dtci/((Ts-Tci)*LOG((Ts-Tci)/(Ts-Tco)))
1740  A3=Dtco/((Ts-Tco)*LOG((Ts-Tci)/(Ts-Tco)))
1750  Dlmtd=Lmtd*SQR(A1^2+A2^2+A3^2)
1760  Duo=Uo*SQR((Dqp/Qp)^2+(Dlmtd/Lmtd)^2)
1770  M=Mw
1780  T1=(T+273.15)/273.15
1790  Kw=FNKw(T1)
1800  Ci=.0635 ! SIEDER-TATE COEFFICIENT
1810  Ac=26.4  ! INTERSCEPT FROM SIEDER PROGRAM
1820  Kc=385 ! WALL THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY
1830  L1=.060325 ! LENGTH OF UNFINNED LEFT PART OF TUBE
1840  L2=.034925 ! LENGTH OF UNFINNED RIGHT PART OF TUBE
1850  Dr=.015875
1860  Pr=Cpw*Mw/Kw
1870  Muw=FNMuw(T)
1880! UNCERTAINTY OF INSIDE HEAT-TRANSFER COEFF.
1890  Cf=1.
1900  Hi=(Kw/Di)*(Ci*Re^.8*Pr^.333*Cf+Ac)
1910  Dti=Q/(PI*Di*(L+L1*Fe1+L2*Fe2)*Hi)
1920  Cfc=(Muw/FNMuw(T+Dti))^.14
1930  IF ABS((Cfc-Cf)/Cfc)>.01 THEN
1940  Cf=(Cf+Cfc)*.5
1950  GOTO 1900
1960  END IF
1970  P1=PI*(Di+Do)
1980  B1=(Do-Di)*PI*(Di+Do)*.5
1990  M1=(Hi*P1/(Kc*B1))^.5
2000  P2=PI*(Di+Dr)
2010  B2=(Dr-Di)*PI*(Di+Dr)*.5
2020  M2=(Hi*P2/(Kc*B2))^.5
2030  Fe1=FNTanh(M1*L1)/(M1*L1)
2040  Fe2=FNTanh(M2*L2)/(M2*L2)
2050  Dtc=Q/(PI*Di*(L+L1*Fe1+L2*Fe2)*Hi)
2060  IF ABS((Dtc-Dti)/Dtc)>.01 THEN 1900
2070  Dkw=.0010 ! ERROR IN WATER THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY
2080  Dci=.0005 ! ERROR IN SIEDER-TATE COEFFICIENT
2090  Dpr=.05 ! ERROR IN PRANDTL NUMBER
2100  Dcf=8.E-6
2110  A4=.14*Dcf/Cf
2120  Dhi=Hi*SQR((Dkw/Kw)^2+(Ddi/Di) 2+(.8*Dre/Re)^2+(.333*Dpr/Pr)^2+(Dci/Ci)^2+
A4)
2130! UNCERTAINTY OF OUTSIDE HEAT-TRANSFER COEFF.
```

```
2140   Dkc=1 ! ERROR IN TUBE THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY
2150   Rw=Do*LOG(Do/Di)/(2*Kc) ! WALL RESISTANCE
2160   Ho=1/((1/Uo)-(Do*L/(Di*(L+L1*Fe1+L2*Fe2)*Hi))-Rw)
2170   Drw=Rw*SQR((Ddo/Do)^2+(Dkc/Kc)^2+(Ddo/(Do*LOG(Do/Di)))^2+(Ddi/(Di*LOG(Do/D
i)))^2)
2180   A5=1/Uo-Rw-(Do/(Di*Hi))
2190   A6=Duo/(Uo^2*A5)
2200   A7=Drw/A5
2210   A8=((Do/(Di*Hi))*(Dhi/Hi))/A5
2220   PRINT
2230   Dho=Ho*SQR(A6^2+A7^2+A8^2)
2240! CALCULATE THE % ERROR IN Ho
2250   Prho=Dho*100/Ho
2260! CALCULATE THE % ERROR IN REYNOLDS NUMBER
2270   Prre=Dre*100/Re
2280! CALCULATE THE % ERROR IN MASS FLOW RATE
2290   Prmf=Dmf*100/Mf
2300! CALCULATE THE % ERROR IN HEAT TRANSFER
2310   Prqp=Dqp*100/Qp
2320! CALCULATE THE % ERROR IN LMTD
2330   Prlmtd=Dlmtd*100/Lmtd
2340! CALCULATE THE % ERROR IN OVERALL HEAT TRANSFER COEF.
2350   Pruo=Duo*100/Uo
2360! CALCULATE THE % ERROR IN INSIDE HEAT TRANSFER COEFF.
2370   Prhi=Dhi*100/Hi
2380   PRINT
2390   PRINT USING "10X',""ERROR ANALYSIS:"""
2400   PRINT
2410   PRINT USING "10X,""% Error in Mass Flow Rate      = "".2D.2D,";Prmf
2420   PRINT USING "10X,""% Error in Reynolds Number     = "".2D.2D.";Prre
2430   PRINT USING "10X.""% Error in Heat Flux           =  "".Z.2D,";Prqp
2440   PRINT USING "10X.""% Error in LMTD                =  "",Z.2D";Prlmtd
2450   PRINT USING "10X,""% Error in Uo                  =  "",Z.2D,";Pruo
2460   PRINT USING "10X,""% Error in Hi                  = "",2D.2D,";Prhi
2470   PRINT USING "10X,""% Error in Ho                  = "".2D.2D.";Prho
2480   END
2490   DEF FNMuw(T)
2500   A=247.8/(T+133.15)
2510   Muw=2.4E-5*10^A
2520   RETURN Muw
2530   FNEND
2540   DEF FNTanh(X)
2550   P=EXP(X)
2560   Q=EXP(-X)
2570   Tanh=(P-Q)/(P+Q)
2580   RETURN Tanh
2590   FNEND
2600   DEF FNKw(T1)
2610   Kw=-.92247+T1*(2.8395-T1*(1.8007-T1*(.52577-.07344*T1)))
2620   RETURN Kw
2630   FNEND
2640   DEF FNMw(T)
2650   A=247.8/(T+133.15)
2660   Mw=2.4E-5*10^A
2670   RETURN Mw
2680   FNEND
2690   DEF FNRho(T)
2700   Rho=999.52946+T*(.01269-T*(5.482513E-3-T*1.234147E-5))
2710   RETURN Rho
2720   FNEND
```

```
2730  DEF FNCpw(T)
2740  Cpw=(4.21120858-T*(2.26826E-3-T*(4.42361E-5+2.71428E-7*T)))*1000
2750  RETURN Cpw
2760  FNEND
```

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